

general, we are given an admirable, if condensed, summary of the subjects dealt with, though in places a critic may pick out a carelessly written sentence, e.g. the dictum (p. 2) that "no substance can at once possess both vectorial and scalar properties." Any work treating of a new and rapidly developing subject must inevitably contain statements which have become obsolete even before their publication, and in a second edition Dr. Elsdon will doubtless revise such passages as those relating to quartz and tridymite (p. 104), amphibole and pyroxene (pp. 111 *et seq.*), and lime-olivine (p. 203). Meanwhile, the book, in addition to its intrinsic value, will attain the author's expressed desire to stimulate interest in this important branch of geology.

A. H.

THE MAKING OF GARDENS.

Hardy Plants for Cottage Gardens. By Helen R. Albee. Pp. vi+309. (New York: Henry Holt and Company.) Price 1.60 dollars net.

THIS volume forms part of the American Nature Series: Group iv., Working with Nature. From the title one would expect to find the work severely technical and somewhat dull—"dull and useful as work clothes and garden boots," as the author herself describes a certain chapter. But the title, though appropriate for a section of the work, is to some extent inadequate, as the book proves to be an essay on garden-making, written in a light and racy style, reminiscent of Charles Dudley Warner's delightful "My Summer in a Garden."

The greater part of the volume is devoted to a detailed account of the evolution of the author's garden, through the various stages "In the beginning," "An incipient garden," "The garden grows," "My ambition grows," and gliding on by easy transition to such apparently inconsequent subjects as "the vices of plants" and "some gardeners I have known." But though the author in her narrative of the six years' labour involved in the formation of her garden ranges over a wide field of horticultural economy, the sequence is so easy and natural that the reader's interest is not allowed to flag, and it is with regret that one reaches the classified lists which occupy the last 122 pages of the book.

These lists are conventional, and call for little comment. The method of classification adopted, though at first sight somewhat complex, will probably facilitate reference. The lists comprise a selection of shrubs and perennials, with descriptions and brief cultural directions, and are arranged primarily under colour headings, and, secondarily, according to the months in which the plants flower. A selection of annuals arranged according to the same system follows. It may be pointed out that this might have been incorporated with the shrubs and perennials, thereby avoiding a somewhat bewildering multiplicity of headings. The work is profusely illustrated with views of the author's garden at various stages, and a copious index is provided.

The author has not laid down hard and fast rules for the formation of a flower garden. Nor does she desire that others should follow slavishly the lines on

which she has worked. "It is not well to imitate another's work, but to follow where your own conditions lead." Her experiences are related with a view to stimulating others who may have the opportunity and the desire to create a garden after their own heart, but who may lack the courage to break away from the conventional or who are diffident as to their ability to shape a new course for themselves. By such the book will be found rich in suggestion. Above all is it a plea for the free play of imagination in the garden.

"No one should have a garden which grows nothing but flowers, and yields no other recompense to the gardener except successful plants. Over, beyond, and above must hover the spirit of poetry, of wonder, of mystery; otherwise there comes a day of disillusion when you awaken to the weariness, anxiety, and watchfulness, and begin to measure the reward. You need a larger insight, something that connects your efforts with the universal in nature, the ideal, the soul of things. Into this you may lift the garden, and at once drop the tired body and soiled hands, and the whole material aspect of labour."

PHARMACEUTICAL PRACTICE.

The Extra Pharmacopoeia of Martindale and Westcott. Revised by Dr. W. Harrison Martindale and W. Wynn Westcott. Fourteenth edition. Pp. xxvii+1054. Price 12s. net. With supplement, *Organic Analysis Chart.* By W. H. Martindale. Pp. 80. (London: H. K. Lewis, 1910.) Price 3s. 6d. net.

THIS handbook, which is so familiar to medical and pharmaceutical practitioners, appears in its fourteenth edition in a slightly altered form, the size of the pages having been enlarged so as to allow of the inclusion of new matter without increasing the thickness of the book. It will, however, still fit comfortably in the coat pocket, which is not an altogether unimportant advantage.

The two years that have elapsed since the appearance of the thirteenth edition have yielded an unusual amount of valuable therapeutic literature, a judicious condensation of which forms, for the most part, the new matter of the fourteenth edition. There are new chapters upon lactic acid bacilli therapy, organic arsenic compounds, the electrical introduction into the tissues of medicaments in the ionised condition, and radiology. In addition, the most recent information relating to a number of new pharmaceutical and chemical preparations is incorporated, and recent progress in vaccine therapy, cancer research, trypanosomiasis, and the treatment of tuberculosis is noted. The results of the chemical and bacteriological inquiry into the value of disinfectants undertaken by *The Lancet* commission are summarised.

The above is a brief outline of the extent of the revision in so far as it is of direct interest to the medical practitioner, but it may be added that throughout the book there is evidence that the authors have scrupulously followed the medical literature of the past two years. Alterations which enhance the usefulness of the book to pharmacists are by no means inconspicuous. Details are given of about a hundred more patent or proprietary medicines than in the last

edition. The authors have indicated by means of signs the part of the poison schedule in which each poison falls; this is an innovation which will be welcomed by retail dealers in poisons, in view of the exacting nature of the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908. Since the last edition was published, new issues of various foreign pharmacopœias have appeared, and these have been utilised where necessary in the preparation of the fourteenth edition.

The "Organic Analysis Chart," which is published as a supplement, is intended to assist the analyst in the recognition of a number of organic chemicals, both natural and synthetic, used therapeutically. This chart gives the results of the examination of more than three hundred substances, and is the outcome of work conducted in Mr. Martindale's laboratory. It is a useful addendum to a book which is indispensable to practitioners of medicine and pharmacy.

A FISHERMAN'S TALES.

An Open Creel. By H. T. Sheringham. Pp. xii + 305. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1910.) Price 5s. net.

MR. SHERINGHAM'S contributions to angling literature are always welcome, and we are glad to find that he has published in book form—or, more accurately, has worked up with other materials into a book—some of his contributions to *The Field*. No one need hesitate to look into the "Open Creel"; they will find plenty of fish, some hundredweight and a half of trout, nearly as heavy a bag of salmon, and chub, pike, and bream by the stone. In the preface we are promised that we shall find no plethora of fish in the succeeding essays, and Mr. Sheringham would not have himself regarded as an over-successful angler; to the ordinary reader he certainly seems successful beyond the wont of fisherman, but success in angling, as in other walks of life, is seldom undeserved, and it is with interest that we look for its explanation in our author's own account of his adventures. This is to be found, we venture to think, in his persistency, and his advice to others is to persevere; he who would come home with a heavy basket must needs set forth "with patience and perseverance and a bottle of sweet oil," as the snail went to Jerusalem. Yet it was his oil bottle that so tried Mr. Sheringham's patience that it came within a little of ending an honourable career in the Coln at Bibury.

It would be invidious to select for praise any one essay in the book. "The Float" is excellent, so, too, are the accounts of "Some Kennet Days," and the obituary notice of "Two Colne Trout," and so are many others. Perhaps it is when he fishes for coarse fish that Mr. Sheringham is the best company; such fishing is a more leisurely pursuit, and leaves more time for contemplation and for those digressions into the byways of angling that show him at his best. Sometimes when dry-fly fishing he tends to become a mere compiler of lists of dates and waters, flies and weights of fish, yet he is never wearisome, and has a most amiable weakness for Wickam's Fancy. Did fly fishing give him leisure for contemplation, Mr. Sheringham might meditate upon the problem thus

presented; we cannot help thinking that a man's character should be reflected in his taste in flies, and that he who loves Wickam's Fancy must be a happy and contented soul and a good companion at the water's side. At any rate, we have found him good company in print, and recommend others to see if they cannot do likewise.

L. W. B.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

The Photography of Moving Objects and Hand-Camera Work for Advanced Workers. By A. Abrahams. Pp. 153. (London: G. Routledge and Sons, Ltd., and Dawbarn and Ward, Ltd., n.d.) Price 1s. net.

MR. ABRAHAMS has been known during the past few years as a very successful photographer of moving objects, especially those in rapid motion, and in this volume he describes his methods freely and fully. He illustrates his experiences with more than forty pictures, which are well reproduced, and these, if nothing else were known of Mr. Abraham's work, would demonstrate his right to speak with authority. After chapters on apparatus, exposure, development, and so on, he deals with the photography of railway trains, athletics, rowing, football, cricket, lawn tennis, horses, divers and swimmers, golf, common objects, winter sports, special subjects, and press photography, giving apparently all the practical details that can be given in a book.

It is of interest that Mr. Abrahams prefers pyrogallol with sodium carbonate and sulphite as developer, in spite of all the new reagents that have been introduced, and that he actually blames metol as the cause of a modified instead of a full success. He advocates swinging the lens when necessary to get better definition of details at various distances from the camera, and justifies his advice by means of at least one example. But when he says, "if you cannot swing the back why not swing the lens," he appears to support the common idea that the one is the equivalent of the other. There is, of course, the radical difference that swinging the lens moves the axis of the lens to a different part of the plate, while swinging the back does not. There is one other common error to which the author appears to lend support, when he says that the shutter-blind "should be really in the focal plane"; an obvious impossibility, because the plate itself is there.

Der Sternenhimmel. By Prof. J. D. Messerschmitt. Pp. 195 + xiii plates. (Leipzig: Philipp Reclam, Jun., n.d.) Price 1.75 marks.

THIS little book is another well-meant attempt to interest the public in astronomical phenomena by describing in simple language some of the results obtained by continued observation. The general appearance of the sky and the changes produced by the diurnal rotation and annual revolution of the earth about the sun come under notice. Separate chapters are added on parallax and aberration, the precession and nutation of the earth's axis, and the variation of latitude, which last seems a small matter to introduce into a work that can only aim at presenting the more conspicuous features. The several planets are described, their general appearance and motion, and a few remarks are added on comets and meteors.

In the section devoted to the stellar system, the usual information is given concerning double and variable stars, clusters, and nebulae, proper motion and the movement of the solar system in space. The ground covered is that with which we have been made familiar by many similar works, and it is not a little difficult to justify the appearance of another treatise